

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Public Safety Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312
October 3, 2019, 8:00AM

MINUTES

Attendance

Leon Davidoff (Chair), Shari Cantor (via phone), Beth Kerrigan (via phone), Liam Sweeney (via phone), Chris Williams

Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Dan Coppinger (Assistant Police Chief), Greg Priest (Fire Chief), Mike Sinsigalli (Assistant Fire Chief), Hugh Callahan (Assistant Fire Chief), Eric Munsell (Battalion Chief, Fire)

Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

Chairman Davidoff called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

2. Communications

a. September 5, 2019 Minutes

The Committee received the minutes from the September 5, 2019 meeting.

3. Staff Reports

a. Police

Assistant Chief Coppinger provided this brief update to the committee. The department is conducting Assistant Chief Oral Boards this morning. Finalists for the emergency management position will be notified soon and the department expects to have the position filled by late October or early November.

The department participated in the Monthly Managers Meeting yesterday and provided a tour of the PD and FD.

Chairman Davidoff referenced the monthly crime statistics including in the packet. Overall, the Town has experienced a significant decrease in crimes (Part 1 & Violent) in the last year. Assistant Chief Coppinger attributes the decline to a number of factors, including the CSU's aggressive approach to drug activity and arrests. The department will work on its community awareness as the cold season approaches.

A/C Coppinger and Training Officer Riccobon briefed the committee on the return of several programs and initiatives. The Citizens Academy is now in its 3rd week and has 16 participants. The College Academy has attracted potential new hires and been a useful marketing tool. The Police Cadet Program will be reopening soon.

b. Fire

Chief Priest provided this update to the committee. He highlighted recent statistics, notable events, incidents, ongoing projects and upcoming events.

The department responded to a call at 1244 North Main Street. Upon arrival, staff discovered a carbon monoxide issue with the building, which was a result of good work and thorough inspections.

Fire Prevention Week will kick off on October 6th and an open house will be held on October 11th at Station 2.

The department has successfully switched to the public radio system.

There is a new narcotics policy, which will reduce the number of trips to Hartford and store spare kits in Station 2.

He discussed personnel matters, including recent new hires, promotions and assignments of the department and Fire Marshal's Office. The FMO has hired Robert Grimaldi, retired Fire Marshal from Bristol, as the Deputy Fire Marshal. He has an extensive background is expected to increase the office's response time and assist in appropriate duties and roles of the position.

4. Future Agenda Items

Town Manager Hart provided the following future agenda items and updates to the committee.

- a. Fitch Study workshops will resume after the November elections due to scheduling conflicts.
- b. There will be a discussion on how the Town prepares and responds to active shooter/officer involved shootings.
- c. An update on the Town's panhandling protocol. Staff recently participated in a nationwide webinar on best practices and procedures.

5. Adjournment

Chairman Davidoff commended staff on their professionalism and teamwork in response to the major fire in Town (Kane Street) last month. He also expressed his gratitude to the fire department for its return of the Open House during Fire Prevention Week. With no other business, he adjourned the meeting at 8:40am.